Siphoning of PDS commodities to open market

749. SHRI P. UPENDRA:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that high prices of essential commodities in open market instigate the PDS management to deprive the poor ration card holders of their quantum, of sugar and other commodities by selling these commodities in the open market;

(b) whether surprise checkings are made and ration card holders are contacted to varify the false records of the PDS management; and

(c) whether he had visited the poor ration card holders to find out the extent of siphoning of PDSs commodities in the open market and if so, what action has been/proposed to be taken to prevent such malpractice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) State Governments and UT Administrations have been delegated powers under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to take action against persons indulging in diversion of commodities meant for distribution through the Public Distribution System (PDS) to the open market. The actual distribution of PDS commodities to the consumers is the responsibility of the State Governments and UT Administrations. Enforcement staff of the State Governments/UT Administrations carry out regular and surprise checks of fair price shops to prevent such malpractices and it take punitive action whenever instances of such malpractices come to notice. The Central Government has advised State Government and UT Administrations to constitute Vigilance Committees at the fair price shop level comprising representatives of women, consumer organisations, person belonging to SC/ST communities and local consumers to ensure people's participation in the supervision of the Public Distribution System.

Steep price rise of edible oil

750. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

Will he Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 163 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th March, 1994 and state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the steep price rise in all brands of popular edible oils if so, the prices of popular brands of edible oils per kg/4 kg. sold through Super Bazars/ Kendriya Bhandars and Civil Supplies Corporations during each month in 1992-93 and 1994;

(b) what has been the retail price of Dhara per kg. during January 1994 to July 1994; and

(c) what is the estimated shortage of edible oil in 1994-95 and what steps have been taken to meet the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) A Statement showing the month-wise prices of different brands of edible oils in Super Bazar, Kendriya Bhandar and Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation during 1992, 1993 and 1994 (up to July, 1994) is given in Annexure. [See Appendix 171, Annexure No. 20]

(c) No estimates have been worked out regarding the shortage of edible oil in 1994-95.